United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago IL 60604

Illinois Indiana
Michigan Minnesota
Ohio Wisconsin

American Chemical Services, Inc. Griffith, Indiana May 1989

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Superfund Remedial Program Fact Sheet

This fact sheet...

- announces a public meeting.
- presents site background and diagram.
- describes RI/FS process for the site.
- offers opportunity to obtain additional site information.
- defines bold-faced site terminology in glossary section.
- explains Superfund Remedial Program.

Public meeting precedes investigation activities

Members of the community of Griffith are invited to attend a public meeting sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). The meeting will serve as a forum to discuss upcoming activities at the American Chemical Services, Inc. (ACS) site. The public meeting will be:

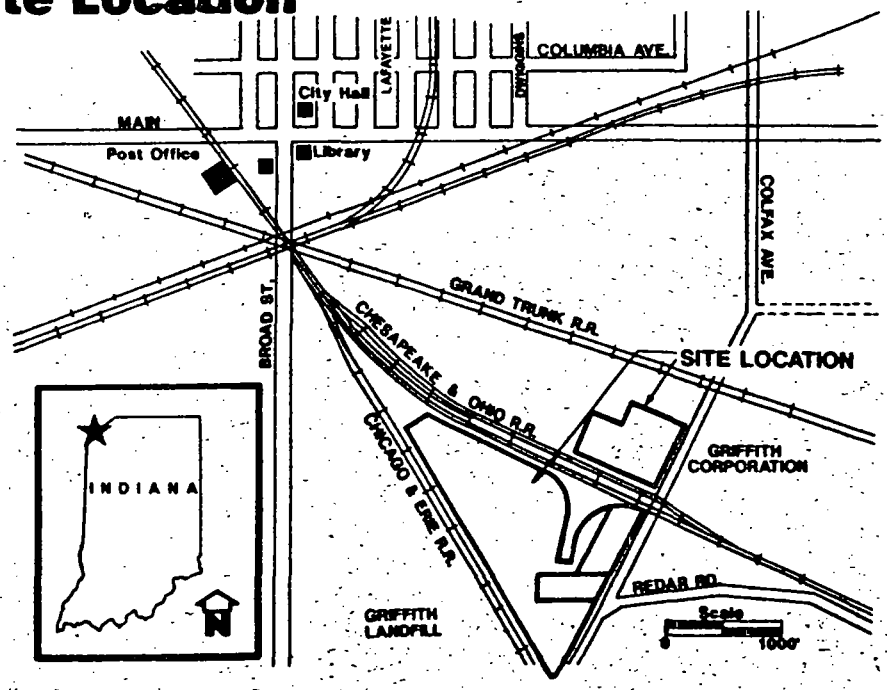
Wednesday, May 24, 1989
7:00 P.M.
Griffith Town Hall
111 North Broad Street
Griffith, Indiana

U.S. EPA personnel currently involved with the site will present information and respond to questions regarding on-site activities, procedures, and reports to remedy the contamination.

A group of approximately 150 companies, U.S. EPA identified as potentially responsible parties, agreed to conduct the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). An RI is a long-term study to identify the nature and extent of contamination, and an FS evaluates remedial alternatives for site conditions.

All work performed or authorized by the group of companies is subject to guidelines and supervision of the U.S. EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Field work is expected to begin in early June 1989.

Site Location



RI/FS determines contamination, provides

An RI is a carefully designed field study that includes extensive sampling and laboratory analysis. Analysis of the samples collected from a site generate precise data on the types, locations, and quantities of wastes; the soil type and water drainage patterns; and resulting environmental or health threats.

Remedial actions have to be tailored exactly to the needs of each individual site. The FS analyzes those needs, and evaluates clean-up alternatives on the basis of their effectiveness and cost.

The RI/FS are two distinct but related studies, and are commonly performed at the same time. According to the ACS work plan, approved by the U.S. EPA and IDEM, the RI/FS will be conducted concurrently to utilize the most current information, and minimize data overlaps and gaps. The RI process for the ACS site is estimated to last approximately 12 months, and completion of the FS report will require an additional 10 months.

The following information briefly describes the on-site activities of the RI.

Problem definition

Personnel will gather information to help define the origin, history, nature, and extent of the environmental problems. Residential, municipal, and industrial wells will be analyzed. The site boundary will also be surveyed.

All information gathered will form a data base to be used for the selection of specific remedial actions during the drafting of the FS.

Hydrogeologic investigation

After the problem areas have been outlined, the ground water flow directions in the shallow aquifer will be determined. Regional ground water flow in the vicinity of ACS is reportedly to the northeast, however, due to several features near the site, flow patterns on site are not well defined.

Installation of ground water monitoring wells will determine the vertical and horizontal directions of ground water flow, and the extent of contamination.

Samples of surface water and sediment will be collected and analyzed to assess the possibility of contaminants migrating to the marshlands west of ACS.

Near surface contamination investigation

Additional information is required regarding the volume, concentration, and characteristics of waste disposed at ACS. Samples will be collected from the surface of known disposal areas and the natural soil underlying the waste.

Test pits and borings will be used to collect waste and natural soil samples in areas known to contain buried drums.

Site characterization

Based on the results of the work listed above, installation of additional monitoring wells and collec-

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Site background

ACS begins as solvent recovery firm

ACS is located at 420 South Colfax Avenue, Griffith, Lake County, Indiana. Located in the immediate vicinity of the site are a few residences, railroad tracks, drainage ditches, and marshlands.

ACS began operations in May 1955 as a solvent recovery firm. Later, the company began a chemical manufacturing operation. From 1955 to at least 1975, ACS disposed of a variety of hazardous wastes produced during company operations in an open area, known as the containment area, on ACS property. Some waste was accepted from outside sources for incineration in the ACS incinerator. The ash was also disposed of on ACS property.

In 1972, Indiana State Board of Health (ISBH) responded to residents' complaints and inspected the ACS facility. From April 1972 to September 1973, ISBH attempted to achieve improved waste handling, spill prevention measures, and site maintenance. In 1974 and 1975, ISBH also responded to reports that ACS was discharging chemicals to the sanitary sewer and dumping chemicals on site.

U.S. EPA involvement

U.S. EPA involvement was initiated in 1980 at the request of the State of Indiana. Sample results from U.S. EPA inspections and four monitoring wells on ACS property indicated the soil and ground water are contaminated with organic compounds.

In 1983, the site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is U.S. EPA's list of the most serious hazardous waste sites identified for long-term remedial action under Superfund.

U.S. EPA defined the site to include the inactive portion of the Griffith Landfill and the property previously owned by Kapica Drum, Inc.

The majority of the remedial action will occur on ACS property because of ACS' documentation regarding hazardous waste disposal at the site, and information gathered during the NPL listing process. However, existing information refers to ACS disposing hazardous wastes in the Griffith Landfill. Additional references concern drum and drum-cleaning residues from Kapica Drum being disposed of on ACS property adjacent to Kapica Drum, and in the Griffith Landfill (please refer to the site diagram on page 3).

alternatives

tion of additional soil samples may be required.

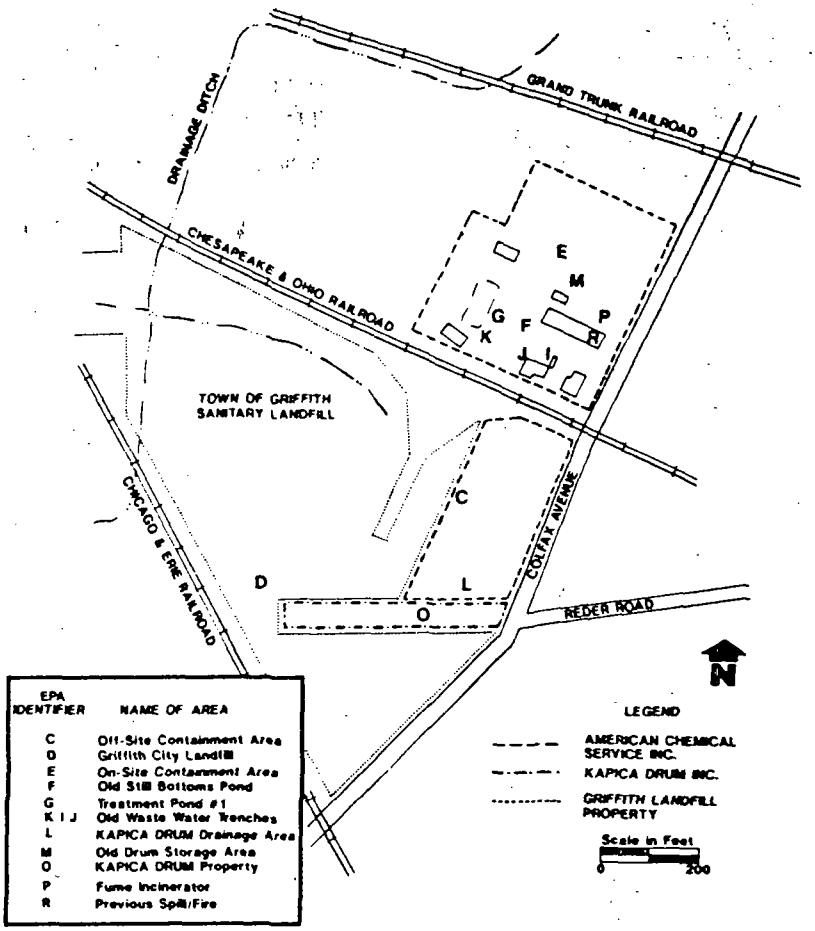
A ground water model will be developed. A model is a means of representing a simplified form of reality to help scientists understand and manage the resource. The model will assist to formulate questions and obtain answers.

Feasibility Study

Alternatives to resolve the contamination problems will be based on the findings of the RI. The alternatives will be described and evaluated in the FS report. Upon approval of the FS, U.S. EPA and IDEM will select a preferred alternative that is both environmentally sound and cost effective.

U.S. EPA will announce the preferred alternative, also referred to as the proposed plan, and provide interested groups and individuals the opportunity to comment. Following the public comment period, U.S. EPA will review and evaluate the comments and select a final remedy for the site.

Site Diagram



For additional information

Anyone desiring additional information about the RI/Fs process or the specific activities proposed for the ACS site is encouraged to review the various U.S. EPA documents that have been assembled for the site.

Copies of the applicable Superfund laws, the work plan for activities at the site, and the community relations plan are available at

Griffith Town Hall
111 North Broad Street
Griffith, Indiana

As they are completed, additional RI/FS documents will be placed in the repository.

For additional information please contact Arthur Gasior, U.S. EPA Community Relations Coordinator. Phone (312) 886-6128 or **Toll Free, 800-621-8431 (9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Central Time).**

For technical information, contact

Robert Swale, 5HS-11
Remedial Project Manager
Remedial and Enforcement Response Branch

U.S. EPA - Region 5
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Phone: (312) 886-5116

Mailing list opportunity

To be placed on the mailing list to receive information regarding the ACS site, please complete and mail this form to:

Arthur Gasior
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA - Region 5
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

American Chemical Services Site, Griffith, Indiana
Please place my name on the mailing list.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

AFFILIATION: _____

TELEPHONE: (____) _____

Glossary

Extent of contamination
Survey to determine how far and at what levels of concentration a contaminant has moved from one location to another within the general area of the site. These studies can be conducted strictly on site and/or the areas surrounding the site. At the ASC site, the study will include off-site areas.

Monitoring wells
Wells installed at specific locations for sampling at various depths. Analysis of samples determine contamination and the direction and extent of contamination movement.

Organic compounds
This term is used to designate chemicals and substances that contain carbon. To date nearly one million organic compounds have been synthesized or isolated. Many organic compounds are produced by chemical synthesis.

Remedial
A long-term action that stops or substantially reduces a release or threat of a release of hazardous substances that is serious but not an immediate threat to public health.

Superfund
Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, known as Superfund) in 1980, to respond directly to hazardous waste problems that may pose a threat to the public and the environment. The U.S. EPA administers the Superfund program.

Superfund Program's Remedial Process

Congress established the Superfund program in 1980 to investigate and clean up actual and potential releases of hazardous substances.

In 1986, Congress reauthorized the program under the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

Preliminary Assessment

The process usually begins with a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the site. A PA determines if a threat or potential threat exists and initiates further necessary actions.

After the PA, U.S. EPA and/or state agencies conduct a Site Inspection (SI) to evaluate the site for its potential impact on public health and the environment.

National Priorities List

By using a system designed to rank the hazards associated with a site, U.S. EPA identifies sites to be proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a roster of the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites.

Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study

The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) examine the type and extent of contamination and identifies possible remedies or alternatives for site conditions.

Upon approval of the RI/FS reports, the U.S. EPA selects a preferred alternative and incorporates it in a Proposed Plan. U.S. EPA announces the Proposed Plan and schedules a public comment period.

Record of Decision

Following the comment period U.S. EPA develops a Record of Decision (ROD). A ROD is a public document that explains which clean-up alternative will be used at NPL sites. A ROD is based on information generated during the RI-/FS and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

Remedial Design and Remedial Action

A Remedial Design (RD) is an engineering phase that follows the ROD where technical drawings and specifications are developed for the subsequent Remedial Action (RA). The RA is the actual construction or implementation phase of the selected clean-up alternative.

EPA

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